

KLA Executive Board Report A-12
Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives

Nov. 21, 2009

KDLA staff has created an electronic archive of KLA Board reports as received by the KLA Secretary. This archive is on the KDLA website at: <http://kla.kdla.ky.gov/>. The archive currently includes reports from the 2007-8 year. We have received the reports from 2008-9 and they will be added soon.

Members of the State Board for the Certification of Libraries are nominated by the KLA Board for appointment by the Governor. Board member Tim Middleton represents public library trustees and his term has expired. Mr. Middleton has requested reappointment. The KLA Board has the option of submitting Mr. Middleton's name to the Governor and may also submit other names. I am requesting action by the Board at the meeting on Nov. 21 on this issue.

KDLA has been notified that we are facing the possibility of an additional 6% reduction for this fiscal year. This will bring our total state funding reductions to about 30% over the past 2 years. The magnitude of previous reductions has left little to reduce. There are few state funded positions that are vacant and layoffs and furloughs must be approved by the legislature. So this reduction will come primarily from state aid to public libraries. For the 12 public libraries that do not have taxing districts for funding, these reductions will be especially difficult.

50 public library staff members in high poverty counties have been selected to receive scholarships for undergraduate classes at Northern Kentucky University and Bluegrass Community and Technical College as part of the Bridging the Gap grant from IMLS. This is a three year program and we hope it enables many students to complete an associate's degree or make progress on a bachelor's degree. Our long term goal is to increase the number of librarians with Master's Degrees in Library Science.

KDLA is partnering with the Department for Workforce Development to provide equipment and public training in public libraries using \$1,000,000 in stimulus funding. The purpose is to provide resources to assist the unemployed and underemployed in finding employment.

Look for an announcement soon about a grant to assist KDLA in applying for Broadband stimulus funding on behalf of public libraries next year.

KDLA held the first new director orientation on Nov. 17 with 14 new directors participating. A leadership academy for public library administrators is being planned for next year.

New libraries were opened in Perry County and Lawrence County in November. Libraries will open in Owsley County in December and Boyle County in January.

Submitted by Wayne Onkst